

Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

June 3, 2014 |

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Farm to School Highlight

Last week, the Edgerton School District was able to plant eighty apple trees, thanks to the Rock County Farm to School Grant. With the grant money, they were able to purchase the trees and hire a local orchard manager for consultation. The orchard manager came out with his planting auger, and the high school students helped plant apple trees within the holes. Thanks to his consultation, the apple project is likely to be a huge success – how can it not with the knowhow and help of local experts? They will be installing a 12-foot deer fence for protection, as well. The apple orchard is located behind the baseball diamond next to the high school. In Edgerton, all three public

schools are located in the same area, so the orchard will be accessible to school children of all ages.

You can follow this and all of the exciting projects going on in Edgerton at their blog: <http://farmlearning.wordpress.com/> and following them on twitter: @Teach4aliving, @PhillKlamm and @corey_livieri.

New Resources

[How Schools Work and How to Work with Schools](#) (May 2014)

This National Association of State Boards of Education publication demystifies public education for policymakers, government officials, community members, business leaders and others interested in partnering with schools to improve the health, safety, and well-being of all students and ensure they are successful in their academic pursuits.

Webinars, Conferences and Events

Are you a chef interested in working with schools?

"Connect: Chefs Move to Schools"

In an effort to assist the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the [Chefs Move to School Initiative](#), the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) has developed a 5-hour training designed to introduce chefs to the School Nutrition Program. The "Connect: Chefs Move to Schools" curriculum makes it easier for chefs to decide where and how they can be of most help. Topics of discussion will include school nutrition financial management, food safety, new meal patterns, standardized recipes and production records, the HealthierUS School Challenge and getting involved with schools.

Date: Aug. 4, 2014

Time: 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Viroqua Area School District, Viroqua Wisconsin

If you are interested, please email Lois Coleman at lmcolema@olemiss.edu and include your name, address, phone, email, employer, and whether you have ever worked in a school setting. Please reply by June 15, 2014.

Do you need help incorporating local foods into your school meal program?

[Buying and Incorporating Local Foods- A 4-hour session for food service managers/directors and others responsible for purchasing.](#)

This Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction summer training program will provide an introduction to farm to school programs in Wisconsin and highlight the state's best school resources, including the recently updated Wisconsin Farm to School Toolkit for School Nutrition Programs. All attendees will be given a copy of this manual. The session will provide interactive problem-solving-related farm to school activities such as finding local foods, food safety, and incorporating local foods into school meal and snack programs. Additionally, the session will include an overview and activity highlighting local food procurement regulations, best practices and current resources. Attendees will be encouraged to ask questions and share success or challenge stories regarding procuring and incorporating local foods in order to learn from our collective experiences.

Culinary Skills Class for school food service

Looking to learn or refresh your culinary skills? During this class, local chef Monique Hooker will demonstrate culinary techniques that will help you prepare fresh ingredients. Participants will have the opportunity to test out their newly learned skills by preparing recipes that can be used in their school meals program. In addition, menu planning strategies that use USDA foods and local produce will be discussed and sample recipes will be provided.

Registration: There is no registration fee to attend either class. Participants can register for one session only. Each session of the culinary training class is limited to 12 participants. Each School Food Authority may register only one person.

Visit <https://forms.dpi.wi.gov/se.ashx?s=56301B2D5BE3EFEB> to register.

Attend the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education Conference and Green & Healthy Schools Institute

This summer event promises to inspire, ignite, and recharge you as you head into the next school year. Early bird registration is now open. This year's theme of "40 Years of Collaboration" will provide sessions that are diverse and relevant to the 21st Century educator.

Conference programming will cover topics such as engaging students through hands-on citizen science projects, integrating STEM and STEAM into the classroom and the community, using mobile devices for teaching and learning and how environmental education can help meet Common Core State Standards for Literacy in All Subjects.

Keynote speaker Steven Ritz is an educator traveling from the Bronx in New York to inspire us through his Green Bronx Machine, a vertical garden program feeding thousands.

Best of all is the cost! Due to a partnership with Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin and a generous grant from EPA, early bird registration is discounted up to 60 percent!!

Don't wait, register now! Find all the details at <http://www.waee.org/annual-conference>.

Healthy Food + Healthy Ecosystems = Healthy Neighborhoods: A summer garden program for middle school youth

June 16, 4 - 5 p.m. EDT

Middle schoolers can get a lot out of the school garden experience, from growing food to learning about the science underlying the natural world. At CitySprouts summer youth program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 100 young people between the ages of 11 and 13 go through a month-long summer internship program at various schoolyard garden locations.

Farm to School Funding Opportunities

[Captain Planet Foundation Offers Grants for Hands-On Environmental Education Activities](#)

POSTED: MAY 26, 2014

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

Grants of as much as \$2,500 will be awarded to support high-quality educational programs that enable children and youth to understand and appreciate our world through hands-on learning projects that improve the environment in their schools and communities....

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[Apply for the Baxter equipment for education grant](#)

The School Nutrition Foundation is now accepting applications for the Baxter Equipment for Education Grant. Through a competitive grant process, Baxter Manufacturing will award one (1) OV310 Mini Rotating Rack Convection Oven ([electric](#) or [gas](#)) to a school district in need of improving its school meal kitchen facilities. The award will also include: a stand base, a 2-year parts & labor warranty, delivery and installation by Hobart Service, and training/demonstration with sales representative. [Learn more.](#)

[NEW FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT](#)

On May 20, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in the Federal Register a [Notice of Funding Available \(NOFA\)](#) totaling approximately \$25.5 million for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) for fiscal year 2014. Of this amount, USDA expects to make approximately \$1.5 million available for microlender technical assistance grants and \$24 million available for loans. The anticipated award announcement date is September 1, 2014. According to the NOFA, MDOs may borrow a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$500,000.

Farm to School Job Openings

School Nutrition Policy Fellow

National PTA seeks a School Nutrition Policy Fellow for a part-time (20 hours/week), 24-week minimum fellowship. The School Nutrition Policy Fellow will support PTA membership in the implementation and advocacy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Smart Snacks in Schools guidelines, as directed by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. For more information and application instructions please visit the [PTA website listing](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov.